



Watford Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 6th December 2023 @ 7.30pm Parish Hall**

Attendance: Councillor Angela Arnold
Councillor Hrithik Dattani
Councillor Mashkoor Khan
Councillor Joan King (Chair)
Councillor Stephen King
Councillor Sean McCluskey
Councillor Alison Scarth
Councillor William Waite (V-Chair)
Councillor Joanna Walker

Apologies: Councillor Valerie Coltman
Councillor Clare Leahy
Councillor Steven Palmer
Councillor Sakhana Uthayakumar

Non-Attendance: Councillor Ronan MacManus

Officer: Gareth Williams (Clerk)

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- 2023/83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were noted and accepted.

 - 2023/84 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
None

 - 2023/85 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None

 - 2023/86 POLICE MATTERS**
PCSO rent Munday from Oxhey Safer Neighbourhood Team attended. Notable Points Burglaries and catalytic converter thefts are down on previous years. Still issues with number plate thefts. Officers have been prioritised to target ASB hotspots.

 - 2023/87 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES COUNCIL MEETINGS ON**
Full Council November 1st, 2023 - Noted and Agreed.



2023/88

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING AND DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item 75 (2022/23) MARKET

The introductory document has been uploaded to the tender section of the NABMA website for the past month. Unfortunately, no one has contacted us directly expressing an interest. Discuss future steps at the next meeting.

Still awaiting final approval from HCC re. the licence for Market Square usage.

Agenda Item 141b (2022/23) HERTS COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

1) Lidl's have stated they will not use smaller lorries to stop the highway being blocked by their articulated lorries.

2) County Cllr Alley has been written to asking for an update on the following:

- Paving edging outside our building to protect the asphalt was missed when the recent works were done – chase on when
- Broken barriers at the roundabout on Prestwick Road, near the Dick Whittington, Two have been installed, chased on why not all four replaced.
- **When the promised Bus stop 'Kassel' kerbing on Oxhey Drive will be installed to aid wheelchair users and the infirm.**
- An update on the future of the Old Step Up building on Oxhey Drive
- When will HCC will be undertaking a Road Safety Audit for Phase 3 of the redevelopment.

Agenda Item 154 (2022/23) - ALLOTMENTS TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

The Clerk has written to the National Allotments Association to check TRDC's position is correct on the allotments being non statutory, therefore not transferable. They confirmed there is little we can do to have the land transferred from TRDC if the land are not designated "statutory" allotments. The Clerk to find out when the Allotment Associations lease finishes.

Agenda Item 2023/24a COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER – Monoliths

The Clerk has sent a message to the TRDC Department Head asking about his project.

Agenda Item 2023/57 -FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION - Front Yard security and health and safety redesign quotes.

Landscaping will be undertaken week commencing 12th February.

Agenda Item 2023/76 -COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER To receive any questions from local community organisations. To consider any written correspondence. NB in relation to our powers.

The clerk wrote to the representatives if the landowner for valley View Farm, Oxhey Lane declining their invitation on behalf of the Council

Agenda Item 2023/77- Planning

The Clerk wrote to TRDC objecting to 23/1496/FUL application (Valley View Farm) and to call it into committee, unless their officers are minded to refuse.

Agenda Item 2023/78a – Finance & Administration – New Saving Accounts

The Clerk is still preparing all the relevant paperwork for this.

Agenda Item 2023/78a – Finance & Administration – Xmas tree barriers

The Clerk purchased 10 red barriers, issues with deliveries twice – had to turn them away due to damage/wrong order. Used a different firm and purchased white ones.



We can then spray ourselves if any damage occurs in the future.

2023/89 COMMUNITY MATTERS/CORRESPONDENCE TO CONSIDER

To receive any questions from local community organisations. To consider any written correspondence. NB in relation to our powers.

Email from Watford & Three Rivers Friends of the Earth asking for free use of our /hall for local green, sustainable, and environmental groups to confer about ways to improve these areas

Proposal: to offer the Hall Hire to Friends of the Earth at charity rate to cover costs. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

2023/90 PLANNING

a) Local Plan sites to be reviewed by Cllrs and Clerk and commented on at the next meeting

Proposal: To allow the Clerk to prepare the answers to the 2nd phase based on the answers we gave from the 1st consultation. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

b) No comments

2023/91 WINTER FUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd 2023 DEBRIEF

The Chair thanked all the staff and councillors who attended for all their hard work on the day. We raised £1640 on the day for Local Charity Ascend and the Local Foodbank based at South Oxhey Baptist Church on Gosforth Lane.

Councillors raised the following points:

- The broken Toilet Washroom pipework needs to be remedied for the Summer Funday. Homegroup have accepted responsibility. Will be brought up at the next South Oxhey Initiative Board meeting.
- One of the games purchased was faulty – the Clerk to seek refund
- It was suggested that we only have Santas Grotto inside the Parish Hall as an event– to be discussed at the next Full Council Meeting.
- The clerk recommended we need more people at the end of the day to help take everything down as there are concerns for Health & Safety when temperatures are so low for staff, councillors and volunteers. Alternatively, Clerk recommended Council consider moving to an inside venue for Tickets, Stalls, Facepainter and Santas Grotto with ride outside as we did one year at Oxhey Wood School. To be discussed at the next Events Committee meeting.
- The Clerk recommended making the events committee a working group and to invite members of the public as they may assist on the day. To be discussed at the next Events Committee Meeting.

2023/92 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

a) October 2023 Payments and receipts were noted and approved

b) Roofing quotes. Proposal to accept ASG roofings quote. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

a) Tree work quotes. Proposal to accept Artemis Tree Services Quote. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**

b) To acknowledge the agreed NJC PayScale for 2023-2024 for backdating NJC pay scale for 2023/2024 was noted and agreed.



2023/93

EXCLUSIONS OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

- a) Resolve to exclude the Press & Public under the provisions of **Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972** due to the confidential nature of the business transacted. Unanimously Agreed. **RESOLVED**
- b) Ascend Charity – usage of our building. Lease Approval.
The Clerk has put the lease confirmation on hold until further notice.
- c) Initial Budget discussions for 2024-2025 financial year
Council went through and further agreed some budget lines in principle. To be finalised once we have the Tax Band D figures from Three Rivers District Council
- d) Future projects for Earmarked Reserves
A number of Earmarked reserves were agreed in principle. To be finalised at the next meeting.

2023/82

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting finished at 9.20pm. Next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 @7.30pm

DRAFT